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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1914

THE NEEDS OF RESEARCH¹

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THE occasion which brings us together to-day is one of profound moment alike to biologists and to the devotees of other branches of science; for in the dedication of your new laboratory we make distinct and formal recognition at once of our existence in a universe chiefly unknown to us and of the most effective method thus far devised for interpreting it. This universe is the complex of phenomena in which we find ourselves and of which we humans form a part, and this method is the method of research. The evolution of our race may be summed up under the two heads of man's relations to and of his means of investigating this complex of phenomena in which he plays the rôle usually of a nameless supernumerary, but occasionally also the rôle of interpreter, or even manager, in an ephemeral presentation of some aspects of the larger drama of life. The event we celebrate, therefore, should stimulate our keenest philosophic interest and rouse our enthusiastic admiration for the favoring circumstances which have made it possible to secure this substantial adjunct to the rare opportunities which have long made Woods Hole a resort for students and investigators in biological science. This event means progress; it marks a definite step in advance along lines of proved advantage to society at large; and it makes additional steps forward easier not only for your organization, but for all similar organizations. Moreover, the age in which we live is preeminently an age of restless, if not

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ Address read on the occasion of the dedication of the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, July 10, 1914.